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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OIC-02 /071 W
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R 051145Z NOV 75
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6078
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 5578

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, UN, SW, US
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER PALME'S VISIT TO U.S.

REF: STATE 256428

1. DURING CALL I MADE ON PRIME MINISTER PALME NOVEMBER 4 I ASKED HIM ABOUT HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO NEW YORK AND, SPECIFICALLY, WHAT HE PLANNED TO SAY IN HIS SPEECH TO THE UNGA. I ALSO ASKED IF THERE WERE ANYTHING WE COULD DO TO FACILITATE HIS VISIT. PALME THANKED ME FOR THE OFFER, BUT SAID THAT VISIT IS PURELY OF "PRIVATE NATURE," AND IS BEING MADE IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. INASMUCH AS HE WOULD BE IN NEW YORK FOR THAT PURPOSE, HE HAD DECIDED TO ALSO USE THE OCCASION TO ADDRESS THE UNGA. RE UNGA SPEECH, PALME SAID HE IS STILL WORKING ON IT AND IT WILL DEAL WITH (1) THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AND (2) DISARMAMENT. THE TWO SUBJECTS, HE SAID, ARE INTERRELATED, BECAUSE ONLY THROUGH DISARMAMENT WILL THE WORLD FIND THE RESOURCES TO FUND A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER.
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2. I ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER IF HE WOULD DISCUSS CERTAIN RECENT DISTURBING DECISIONS BY THE MAJORITY IN THE UNGA, INCLUDING THE DESIGNATION OF ZIONISM AS "RACIST" AND THE PASSING OF TWO CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS ON KOREA, I SAID THAT, IN THE U.S. AND A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH ACTIONS HAD UNDERMINED THE PRESTIGE OF THE U.N. AS AN INSTITUTION. PALME REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO RAISING THIS POINT. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT MANY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE U.N. HAD ACTED IRRESPONSIBLY, BUT THIS HAD TO BE CONSIDERED AGAINST THE HISTORICAL U.N. BACKGROUND: FOR MANY YEARS THE WESTERN NATIONS HAD ENJOYED A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY IN THE U.N., BUT NOW A NEW GROUP OF DEVLOPING COUNTRIES HAS BECOME A MAJORITY. THESE COUNTRIES, HE CONTINUED, ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THEIR NEW STRENGTH, REAL OR APPARENT, AND ARE DETERMINED TO UTILIZE IT, SOMETIMES IRRESPONSIBLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, PALME SAID, SOME HAVE ACTED WITH RESTRAINT. (I AGREED THAT IN A NUMBER OF CASES THIS WAS TRUE, SEVERAL OF THE NEW U.N. MEMBERS HAVING VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTION ON ZIONISM). IN VIEW OF THEIR IMMATURITY, PALME CONTINUED, WE IN THE WEST MUST SEEK TO INFLUENCE THE NEWCOMERS BY QUIET PERSUASION. I AGREED THAT THIS COULD BE A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH, ADDING THAT SWEDEN IS IN A GOOD POSITION TO PLAY THIS ROLE OF "PERSUADER."

3. AT THE END OF OUR DISCUSSION, PALME SAID THAT ONE NEW POINT HE MIGHT INSERT IN HIS SPEECH WOULD BE SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE U.N. THIS IS A PRINCIPLE THAT SWEDEN HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED, PALME ADDED. I REPLIED THAT THE USG IS ALSO FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY AND FOR THAT REASON WE HAD OPPOSED EFFORTS TO PROMOTE "SELECTIVE UNIVERSALITY."
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